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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006798

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: MFA FINAL REPORT OF TRILATERAL (TURKEY, IRAQ, U.S.) MEETING ON TRUCKER SECURITY

REF: ANKARA 06675

Classified By: DCM Robert Deutsch for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) This is an action request for MNF-I (via CENTCOM and Embassy Baghdad). Please see para 6.

2. (C) MFA gave embassy December 3 the text of the final report of the November 30 Trilateral Meeting to Improve Security for Turkish Truckers in Iraq. The text (para 7) reflects some agreements or requests that were reached after the draft text was completed and some additional points.

3. (C) The first page of the final report records the agreements reached by the Turks and Iraqis. There are only minor substantive changes from the draft paper. The Turks dropped the reference to establishing temporary "shifting locations," where Turkish drivers can transfer their cargoes for delivery in Iraq by Iraqi trucks and drivers. The final paper also includes a reference to establishing stations for sharing security information. This point was also added in the list of requests for MNF-I.

4. (C) The second page includes Turkey's requests to MNF-I to improve and extend security provided by MNF-I. In addition to the requests included in the draft text, the final paper adds several points that were also reported in reftel: MNF-I escorts for trucks entering and leaving Iraq; cooperation to repatriate Turkish drivers killed or wounded in Iraq; and provision of insurance or other compensation for death or damage to trucks in Iraq. The Turks added three new requests to the paper: 1) that MNF-I provide security escorts for international humanitarian assistance (this likely is an indirect reference to humanitarian missions conducted by the Turkish Red Crescent in Iraq); that MNF-I designate a liaison officer who will be available 24 hours to coordinate emergency cases; and 3) that MNF-I set up stations to provide current security and convoy information to drivers.

5. (C) Some of Turkey's requests of MNF-I are ambiguous. For example, we do not know what "efficient and more numerous protection teams" really means. Nor is it clear what "coordination and cooperation in the indemnification of damages and casualties with Turkish lorries and drivers" means. We know the Turks are concerned that the families of Turkish truck drivers killed in Iraq are not adequately compensated for their loss, but at the same time USG contracts specifically make insurance the responsibility of the contractor.

6. (C) Action request for MNF-I: Although Colonel Williams, who represented MNF-I at the November 30 meeting, responded fully to the Turks requests, we recommend that MNF-I be prepared to reiterate those points and respond to the requests added by the Turks to the text of the final report at the next trucker security meeting (not yet scheduled).

7. (C) Text of final report:

Page 1

THE TRIPARTITE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY FORUM  
(30th November, Ankara)  
The Mutually Agreed Points on  
Trade and Transportation Security between Turkey and Iraq

During the discussions at the Tripartite Transportation Security Forum meeting held on 30th November 2004 in Ankara, regarding the security issues related to the transportation from Turkey to Iraq and vice versa, the following points were mutually agreed upon by the Turkish and Iraqi sides:

- Parking and accommodation facilities are to be identified and provided by the Iraqi side for the benefit of Turkish trucks carrying goods to Iraq. (There is already a joint-venture initiative between the Iraqi Land Transportation Company and a Turkish firm. This joint-venture initiative can also undertake other projects of parking and accommodation facilities to be built);

- Increasing checkpoints, escorting and patrolling throughout various route segments. Protection is needed along the whole route, as well as for the parking and accommodation spaces;
- Setting up a network of communications by satellite for the monitoring of incoming and outgoing trucks from Iraq;
- Jointly facilitating transportation by road and railway through Syria;
- Stations will be constituted at locations required, to facilitate the flow of information concerning the surveillance of the journey of Turkish convoys; including information sharing about the security situation on the itinerary before departure, as well as during the whole trip;
- For a smooth implementation of the afore-mentioned measures, a task force will be created to follow up the execution of the necessary prospective arrangements. Representatives at the task force should be assigned by the Turkish and Iraqi sides.
- The two sides shall designate liaison officers who will have all-time accessible communication facilities at their disposal, with a view to remaining in contact for emergency cases;
- The implementation process for the previously cited measures should commence not later than a fortnight from the date of this meeting of the Forum.
- A list of points submitted as requests to the MNF for implementation with regard to reinforcing the security measures vis--vis the Turkish transporters in Iraq is attached as an annex.

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THE TRIPARTITE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY FORUM  
(30th November 2004, Ankara)  
REQUEST FROM THE MNF (USA)

During the discussions at the Tripartite Transportation Security Forum meeting held on November 30th 2004, in Ankara, on the security issues related to the transportation from Turkey to Iraq and vice versa, the following points were submitted as requests to the MNF for implementation:

- Reinforcement of military escorts,
- More troops and accompanying vehicles, formation of larger and stronger security platforms,
- Airborne support,
- A reduced number of Turkish trucks in a single convoy,
- Efficient and more numerous protection teams,
- Extending the protection on the route segments and increasing check-points,
- Setting up of stations at locations required, to facilitate the flow of information concerning the surveillance of the journey of Turkish convoys; including information sharing about the security situation on the itinerary before departure, as well as during the whole trip.
- Provision of the same level of security to incoming and outgoing trucks,
- Ensuring a thorough coverage of safety to international humanitarian assistance as provided for MNF supplies,
- Immediate and effective cooperation for the repatriation of the bodies of deceased/wounded Turkish drivers (registration, reporting and medical assistance),
- Coordination and cooperation in the indemnification of damages and casualties with Turkish lorries and drivers.
- Designation of liaison officers, who will have all-time accessible communication facilities at their disposal, with a view to remaining in contact for emergency cases.

END TEXT

18. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.  
EDELMAN